

Puget Sound Commercial Fisheries

Hotline Message Number 1

Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 3:00 PM.

The 2011 Puget Sound Commercial Salmon Regulation pamphlet may now be downloaded from our web site:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/>

Copies will be distributed by mail to licensed fishers.

Fishers are reminded that a Fish Friendly certification card will be required to participate in any Area 7 or 7A commercial salmon fisheries.

Area 7 and 7A sockeye fisheries are not posted on this hotline. Please call the National Marine Fisheries Hotline: 1-(800)-662-9825.

In addition to Fish Friendly cards, please be aware of specific gear requirements during Area 7 and 7A sockeye openings:

- Gillnets require "Seabird Strips" to participate.
- Purse Seines are required to brail and have an operational recovery box aboard to participate.
- Reef nets are required to have a Puget Sound Reef Net Logbook aboard to retain any marked Chinook.

Vessel operators should be aware that new Federal regulations were recently enacted to protect Killer Whales. These new rules prohibit vessels from approaching any killer whale closer than 200 yards and forbid vessels from intercepting a whale or positioning the vessel in its path.

Exemptions to the rules apply to treaty Indian and non-treaty commercial fishing vessels lawfully engaged in actively setting, retrieving, or closely tending fishing gear or transferring catch. The regulations **DO** apply to all fishing vessels transiting to or from fishing areas. WDFW also encourages all vessel operators to "GO SLOW" in the vicinity of killer whales, and in areas frequented by the whales.

If you suspect an error in this message, or if you have questions please contact Steve Thiesfeld at (360) 902-2715. Thank you for calling the WDFW hotline for Puget Sound commercial fishing information.